

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02 IO-03 EUR-10 DPW-01

AID-10 RSR-01 /079 W

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R 030530Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4025

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11910

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, JUNE 24-30

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG JUNE 30

REPEATED TO YOUR

QUOTE NHA TRANG 0655

1. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN MR 2 IS LITTLE CHANGED FROM
LAST WEEK. WHILE REPORTED INCIDENTS HAVE AVERAGED ABOUT
12-14 PER DAY, AT LEAST HALF OF THEM HAVE OCCURRED IN KONTUM
IN THE AREA OF THE CURRENT FIGHTING AROUND TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE
WEST OF KONTUM CITY. THE REST OF THE REGION CONTINUES AT A
SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER LEVEL OF ACTIVITY THAN BEFORE CEASE-FIRE
II, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A MID-WEEK FLURRY OF ENEMY ACTIVITY --
ATTACKS BY FIRE, MININGS, AND GROUND ATTACKS -- IN NORTHERN
PHU MY DISTRICT OF BINH DINH WHICH WAS PROBABLY IN REACTION
TO RECENT GVN EFFORTS TO EXPAND CONTROL OF AREAS ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE MAIN HIGHWAY QL 1.

2. IN KONTUM THE WAR HAS BECOME A HEAVY SIEGE BY RVNAF AGAINST
STRONG ENEMY POSITIONS IN THE AREA OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE AND
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SURROUNDING HAMLETS WHICH WERE SEIZED BY THE NVA/VC THREE WEEKS

AGO. THE GVN HAS NOW COMMITTED FOUR ARVN BATTALIONS AND NUMEROUS RF UNITS TO THE BATTLE WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RETAKING THE LOST GROUND. PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW AND PAINFUL. RVNAF ELEMENTS ACTUALLY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE BUT THEY APPARENTLY WERE THROWN BACK WITH LOSSES. OTHER UNITS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA ARE ALSO ENCOUNTERING ADAMANT RESISTANCE WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BREAK EVEN WITH HEAVY TACAIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT WHICH REACHED AS HIGH AS THREE THOUSAND ROUNDS PER DAY.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED DECISION BY JGS TO CANCEL THE IDEA OF AN "ULTIMATUM" FROM THE GVN PCXMRZBCOHKGWMJYBOZJGLYDNFVS UTWVVACH D TRUNG NGHIA OR ELSE THE VNAF WOULD BOMB DUC CO - SEE SAIGON 11738), POLOFF BELIEVES FUTURE TACTICS WERE DISCUSSED DURING PRESIDENT THIEU'S VISIT TO KONTUM JUNE 28 AND EXPECTS OUTCOME WILL BE INCREASED BOMBING IN THE TRUNG NGHIA AREA AND ADJACENT AREAS ACROSS THE POKO RIVER WHICH HAVE BEEN VC/NVA STRONGHOLDS FOR SOME TIME, BUT HE DOES NOT EXPECT THERE TO BE ACTS OF RETALIATION IN PLACES UNCONNECTED WITH THE PRESENT BATTLE. POLOFF UNDERSCORES FACT THAT EVEN HEAVIER FIGHTING THAN THAT ALREADY SEEN IS TO BE EXPECTED IN THE TRUNG NGHIA AREA AS THE DETERMINATION OF BOTH SIDES TO CONTROL THESE VILLAGES SEEMS EQUALLY UNYIELDING.

4. AS A RESULT OF THE JUNE 26 INCIDENT IN BINH TUY PROVINCE, IN WHICH ICCS TEAM WAS SHOT AT AFTER DESCENDING FROM THEIR HELICOPTER AT AN INVESTIGATION SITE IN SONG DINH HAMLET, CANADIAN REGION IV ICCS CHIEF HAS SAID THAT FUTURE INVESTIGATING TEAMS WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SECURITY. HE SAID THAT ICCS TEAMS WILL NOT CURTAIL THEIR ACTIVITY, BUT HUNGARIANS AND POLES HAVE ALREADY INDICATED DOUBTFUL WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE INVESTIGATIONS IN TUYEN DUC AND ON JUNE 28 REFUSED TO ACCOMPANY CANDEL AND INDODEL ON "OBSERVATION" TRIP REPORTEDLY FOR SECURITY REASONS.

5. PROVINCE OFFICIALS IN PHAN THIET, PLEIKU, AND PROBABLY OTHER PROVINCES ARE CONCERNED OVER THE PROBLEM OF CONTROL OF POPULATION, AND ARE EXERCISING CARE TO AVOID A POST-CEASEFIRE RELAXATION OF CONTROLS WHICH MIGHT ENABLE THE COMMUNISTS TO EXPAND THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE POPULACE. IN PHAN THIET THE
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PROVINCE CHIEF HAS CAUTIONED HIS DISTRICT CHIEFS AGAINST LAXITY IN MAINTAINING ROADBLOCKS AND CHECKPOINTS TO PREVENT UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF AREAS UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE, AND IN PLEIKU OFFICIALS HAVE BEGUN IN SOME VILLAGES TO REINSTITUTE THE FORMER PRACTICE OF PHOTOGRAPHING FAMILY GROUPS FOR HAMLET RECORDS AGAINST WHICH POSSIBLE DESERTERS OR COMMUNIST INFILTRATORS MIGHT BE EXAMINED. SIGNED DAINELS UNQUOTE

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